

REMARKS

In the office action mailed on November 2, 2005, the examiner required restriction of the claims to either Group I or Group II. The examiner also required the election of one species selected from Species I-A, I-B, and I-C and of one species selected from Species II-A, II-B, and II-C. The examiner further required, under 35 U.S.C. § 121, "the election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable."

Applicant hereby elects the Group-I claims (1-9, 19, 20, 23, and 24). Consequently, Group-II claims 10-18 and 21-22 have been canceled. Applicant further elects, for purposes of examination, Species I-A and II-A (the examiner required the applicant to elect *two* species, Specie I and Specie II). Finally, applicant elects Species I-A for prosecution on the merits, to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is held to be allowable. These species elections are, however, provisional. Applicant reserves the right under 37 CFR § 1.141(a) to claim a reasonable number of additional species, should one or more of generic claims 1, 5-9, 19-20, and 23-24 be allowed. The claims readable on Group I, Species I-A, are claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 19, 20, 23, and 24.

This application is now considered to be in condition for examination on the merits, and reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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